

Southeast Vermont Transit (SEVT/The MOOVer) Route Changes 3/18/25

The SEVT Board approved a schedule of route changes on March 18th totaling \$225,845 in response to a request by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) to cut spending from its FY26 state and federal funding budget. The reason for these cuts is that operating costs have risen higher than state and federal funding can keep up with them. Such funding is flat and, in several cases, has been cut from last year. VTrans' is seeking \$1.5 million in savings among Vermont's seven public transit providers.

This latest round of cuts was preceded by a 2024 request to change/cut underperforming routes based on the state's annual Route Performance Report that tracks rides and performance efficiency among all of the state's public transit routes. Those routes rated below the acceptable level were among the changes made by the providers.

In the past 12 months SEVT made \$152,162 of cuts which are shown below:

	Federal, State, Local Direct Cost Savings				
Route Changes already made					
Second morning trip to Bennington	\$18,298	of the two morning trips to Bennington, this had the least ridership - 1-2 rides per trip			
Route 73	98,114	we combined the 73 schedule into Routes 71 & 72			
MOOVer Fr-Sat nights non-winter	18,459	we had very little ridership at those times			
Route 57 winter weekends	14,244	we had very little ridership at those times			
East Dover-Wilmington school route	3,047	this route was not used once Dover funded their own bus to Brattleboro			
Total	\$152,162				

We dramatically increased its non-state/federal fundraising efforts in 2024 in an effort to minimize cuts for next year. Many new sources of funding were realized or are in the application stage including town appropriations which rose 24% over last year. Town appropriations, as well as the rest of SEVT's local funding, are key to keeping the remaining services going and limiting the size of the cuts that have to be made. The company also looked for and implemented other ways to reduce spending besides route cuts.

On March 18 the SEVT Board approved route cuts to FY25 spending and FY26's budget. These cuts were recommended based on the least number of riders impacted and the efficiency of the route. These cuts were:

Route Cuts as of 3/18/25					
			Federal, State, Local Direct Cost Savings	Effective Date	Other
Route Name/Number	Proj FY25 Rides	FY24 Hours			
Rt 1 Mount Snow Base Area weekends	3,000	429	\$40,196	11/28/25	1 bus will run every 20 minutes
Rt 7 Wilm-West Dover second winter wknd bus	4,028	450	42,164	12/26/25	1 bus will run every 60 minutes
Brattleboro microtransit	5,200	1,690	50,000	6/13/25	end of service
Rt 10 Wilmington-Brattleboro 7:00 am run M-F	520	346	32,401	5/5/25	3-4 other trips will run M-F
Rt 10 Wilmington-Brattleboro weekends	473	312	29,234	5/3/25	end of weekend service
Tweak Brattleboro shoppers route	1,901	180	14,594	4/21/25	2 monthly trips instead of 4
Rt 13 Wilmington-Bennington	1,332	320	17,256	6/13/25	end of service
Total	16,454	3,727	\$225,845		

There are several key points:

- Route changes are made in the order of the least number of riders affected and the route's financial efficiency
- These are very difficult decisions to make, and we do not take lightly the impact these changes have on some riders. We have no other options at this point.
- All possible cost savings have been looked at and implemented besides route cuts. We're sorry to all those riders who are negatively impacted by these changes.
- Apart from the Brattleboro microtransit and Wilmington-Bennington routes, all towns served before these changes are still being served
- Medicaid, ADA, and the Olders & Disabled services are 99% unaffected at this time
- All Vermont public transit providers are being asked to share these cuts
- Town appropriations, as well as all of our local funding, are key to keeping our remaining services going and limiting the size of cuts we have to make
- There may be more changes coming

These are challenging times for all entities and people relying on state and federal funding. We thank everyone for their ridership and support, and we will continue to keep everyone posted on any other changes that occur.

If you have comments or questions, please contact me at randys@moover.com or via phone 1-802-463-2474.

Thank you.

Randy Schoonmaker
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